



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/673,661

09/29/2003

Elof Eriksson

CEL.728.US

2357

60404 7590 10/28/2008
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.
600 CONGRESS AVENUE
SUITE 2400
AUSTIN, TX 78701

EXAMINER

HOPKINS, CHRISTINE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3735

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

10/28/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/673,661	Applicant(s) ERIKSSON ET AL.	
	Examiner CHRISTINE D. HOPKINS	Art Unit 3735	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 32-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/29/08, 10/01/08</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 13 March 2008 has been entered. Claims 21-40 are now pending. The Examiner acknowledges the cancellation of claims 1-20 and the addition of claims 21-40.

Election/Restrictions

2. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 21-31, in the reply filed on 23 June 2008 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informalities: at line 2, --to-- should be inserted following "configured". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 3735

5. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 29 at line 2, the term "type" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear as to what defines an end mill "type" cutting tool.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 21-23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bonutti (U.S. Patent No. 7,134,437). Bonutti discloses a tissue removal apparatus comprising a flexible drill shaft. Regarding claim 21, Bonutti teaches a tissue harvester assembly including: a housing **18** with a port; a rotatable shaft **14**; a tissue cutting tool **16** mounted on the shaft, wherein the cutting tool is received within an opening in the housing; and an electric motor **20** coupled to a power source and the rotatable shaft, wherein the cutting tool is configured to rotate within the opening (col. 5, lines 37-48); a tissue particle collector **28**; a nanograft cell **172**; and a particle retriever (cannula/curette assembly) (col. 9, lines 46-52) wherein the retriever is capable of being

Art Unit: 3735

received by the port and injecting tissue into the nanograft cell. With respect to claim 22, the suction line port leading to the housing **18** (Fig. 1) is interpreted as a "tissue opening" since the tissue is suctioned from the housing through the suction line **30**. This "tissue opening" is capable of serving as an orifice for pressing against and receiving a dermal tissue layer of a tissue source. Regarding claim 23, the cutting tool is configured such that it is capable of extending through the "tissue opening" and penetrating tissue. With respect to claim 25, the tissue particle retriever is considered to be a syringe since the cannula/curette assembly works to retrieve graft material (col. 9, lines 46-52).

Regarding claim 26, the cutting tool is configured as a rotary drum since a rotating motion is imparted on the drill shaft to move the cutting tip (col. 5, lines 37-48). With respect to claims 27 and 28, the cutting tool comprises a slot **123** extending along the rotary drum; the slot is parallel to the rotatable shaft; and further includes sharpened cutting elements such as cutting edges **126** (Fig. 14B), which form a serrated blade. With respect to claims 29 and 30, it is unclear what an "end mill type" cutting tool is, therefore Fig. 14A is found to anticipate the claims since a tapered cylinder tip **120** is located on the end of the cutting tool (Figs. 14A and 14B).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

Art Unit: 3735

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 24 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonutti (U.S. Patent No. 7,134,437). Regarding claim 24, Bonutti discloses the invention as claimed, see rejection supra; however Bonutti does not disclose expressly that the cutting tool is configured to extend into the tissue in a range from approximately 0.01 mm to approximately 0.9 mm. Instead, Bonutti indicates that the cutting tool extends in the tissue to remove bone tissue, cartilage, muscle and fetal tissue (col. 2, lines 25-35). At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to configure the cutting tool to extend into the tissue surface in a range from approximately 0.01 mm to approximately 0.9 mm because Applicant has not disclosed that such a range provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art would have expected Bonutti's extended range of cutting into the bone, and applicant's invention, to perform equally well with either the range taught by Bonutti or the claimed approximately 0.01 mm to approximately 0.9 mm range because both would perform the same function of enabling cutting of dermal tissue. Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been prima facie obvious to modify Bonutti to obtain the invention as specified in claim 24 because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over the prior art of Bonutti.

Regarding claim 31, Bonutti discloses the invention as claimed, see rejection supra; however Bonutti does not disclose expressly that the port is a luer fitting.

Art Unit: 3735

Instead, Bonutti indicates that the port leads to a suction line (Fig. 1). At the time the invention was made, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a luer fitting because Applicant has not disclosed that a luer fitting provides an advantage, is used for a particular purpose, or solves a stated problem. One of ordinary skill in the art would have expected Bonutti's port fitting to the suction line and applicant's invention, to perform equally well with either the port taught by Bonutti or the claimed luer fitting because both would perform the same function of enabling suction to be created through the port. Therefore, at the time of the invention it would have been prima facie obvious to modify Bonutti to obtain the invention as specified in claim 31 because such a modification would have been considered a mere design consideration which fails to patentably distinguish over the prior art of Bonutti.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHRISTINE D. HOPKINS whose telephone number is (571)272-9058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor, II can be reached on (571) 272-4730. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3735

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/C. D. H./
Christine D Hopkins
Examiner
Art Unit 3735

/Charles A. Marmor, II/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3735